

## ON THE VERGE OF ARREST

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Only the Fact That the Purchaser of the Toothpick Holder in Newark Wore a Beard Deters the Police from Taking a Positive Step—Suspect Believed to Have Sent Pulson to Cornish and Barnett, Too—Trouble in the Knickerbocker Athletic Club at the Bottom of the Crime—Cornish Received Threatening Letters

The police now believe that they have solved the mystery of the attempt on the life of Harry Cornish, the athletic instructor of the Knickerbocker Club, an attempt which resulted in the death of Mrs. Kate J. Adams, in whose apartments at 41 West Eighth-street, Cornish was shot.

Since the day after the death of Mrs. Adams the police have devoted their energies to working up a case against a young man, who was formerly a member of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, and who is said to be a bitter enemy of the club's instructor. A web of circumstan-

tial evidence has been woven around this man so strong that the police seriously considered placing him under arrest several days ago on a charge of murdering Mrs. Adams. There arose a circumstance which made it inadvisable to proceed against the man at once. The chain of evidence was broken by Emma Miller, the clerk in Hartdegen & Co.'s jewelry store in Newark, who described the purchaser of the

The interruption to the course decided upon by the police will not delay matters long. It was said by a person high in authority last night that the arrest might be made at any moment. Everything will depend on the move-

ments of the man under suspicion. If he makes any attempt to get away he will be intercepted. If he remains in town he may be allowed to proceed about his business until the obstacle raised by Miss Miller is swept aside. The discovery in Newark of a woman who deals in wigs and false beards, and who says that a man answering the description of the suspect tried to purchase a red beard and a wig from her about ten days ago, may clear up the case and result in the arrest being made at once.

**SUSPECT'S NAME KNOWN TO MANY.**

The name of the suspect is known by a number of persons, but is withheld for obvious reasons. It has already been mentioned in the

case. Whether or not the man under suspicion can be connected with the poisoning of Henry Crossman Barnett, by powder sent to him at the Knickerbocker Athletic Club late in October, is not known. The similarity between the two cases has led Capt. McClusky

to declare that the same mind conceived both crimes, although he will not commit himself to the opinion that the same hand carried both out. So far as could be learned yesterday the suspect in the Adams case was at one time a friend of Barnett. There are rumors of trouble about a woman, and it is said that between Cornish and the suspect there was feeling about this same woman in addition to trouble in the club over club matters, but the story of the woman lacks confirmation.

It has been settled that the poison that killed

Mrs. Adams was not cyanide of potassium but cyanide of mercury. Despite the denials of Capt. McClusky, District Attorney Gardiner, his assistant, John F. McIntyre, and others, it is a fact that Prof. Witthaus has made a preliminary report on the nature of the poison sent to Corvich. The full report will not be

CORNISH, the man reportedly was hospitalized for two weeks last week. It was grand jury testimony that the use of the word "bromo" is understood by chemists only, that was in the bottle labelled "bromo seltzer" sent to Cornish; it was grand jury evidence concealed in Kutnow powder that was sent to Barneet, and which made him so violently ill. The police have had little or no time to work up the Barneet case, and they had nothing to add yesterday to Capt. McClosky's statement of Tuesday afternoon. "The same mind undoubtedly conceived both crimes."

CORNISH THE KEY OF THE MYSTERY.

Harry Cornish, the intended victim of the poisoning, is a 30-year-old man, a native of New York.

from the first. In his first interview with Capt. McCuskey he ran over the names of all those who might desire to injure him. There were a number of them, for Cornish, his enemies said, was just the man to make a fool of. There was just this, that McCuskey thought was capable of trying to murder him. He gave the name of that man to Capt. McCuskey and his reasons for believing that he was the man to make a fool of him. His reasons are not known outside of the Detective Bureau, but some of them are.

On two or three occasions since the death of Cornish, McCuskey has been interviewed and has invariably stated that he didn't care who shot the poison. Capt. McCuskey and Assistant District Attorney McIntyre have done nothing but talking for Cornish the rest of the time, and he has been able to get away with it. He was unable to give them the slightest clue to work upon; that he hadn't an enemy in the

During all this time they have been trying to locate the man who may have been in contact with them. Cornish has given the police four letters written to him by this man about a year or so ago, and he has been able to find out under the following circumstances: When the reorganized Manhattan Athletic Club went to pieces the property was divided into three shares, and a broker named J. Herbert Ballantine wanted to make the organization a proprietary club, and it is said that he employed Harry Cornish to do the bookkeeping. Ballantine had obtained a wide experience in athletics, and was chosen because the Ballantines believed that a boom in athletics was what was needed.

Cornish demanded full sway, and it was given to him. He met with determined opposition from the other members of the club, who thought he was to autocratize for a mere employee. These men found out in short order that Cornish was more than an employee. Mr. Ballantine upheld him in everything that he did, and his opponents had their backs to the wall. They were to resign or be sacked soon. Some did one thing or the other, but there were bitter quarrels and some hard things said.

The man under suspicion was one of these who came into conflict with Cornish. Cornish counted him and later received four letters from him. These letters were very angry and said, and in one there was an implied

threat against Cornish's life. The letters are signed, it is said, with the writer's full name. They are not accessible now, in fact up to yesterday Capt. McCluskey denied that any such letters were in existence. It is significant that from the very first the police have regarded this threat as serious enough to justify them in suspecting the writer.

Capt. McCluskey, when he came into possession of these letters, thought he detected a similarity in the writing to that on the box which was sent to Cornish, and which con-

lained the toothpick holder and the bottle of oil. The written address on the box was obviously disguised, but many of the smaller letters, particularly the vowels, were like those on the letters.

Capt. McCluskey thought the case sufficiently important to warrant him in calling in all the handwriting experts in the vicinity to pass judgment on the letters and the address. There are three such experts hereabouts and two of them could not be reached. So the letters were turned over to David M. Carvalho, a third expert and they are now in his hands. Mr. Carvalho has not made an official report

ot, but he has told Capt. McCluskey that there is a marked similarity between the writing in the letters and that on the package sent to Cornish. He has not finished his study of the letters yet.

**WHAT PREVENTS AN ARREST.**

The description given by Miss Miller, who is supposed to have sold to vand and hoodlums many

Capt. McCluskey's first move after learning of the red beard was to find out whether or a false

...of that you could be made much more by